

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for manufacturing adjustment shafts (1; 2) comprising a metallic shaft and a noise-abating, non-metallic external cladding (1.3; 2.3) situated between cladding-free shaft ends (1.1; 1.2; 2.1), ~~where,~~comprising the steps of:

starting with a metallic shaft strand (3) continuously fitted with said external cladding, said cladding is removed in the zone (a; b) of the axially continuous shaft ends (1.1; 1.2; 2.1) of two consecutive adjustment shafts (1; 2) by at least one ~~externally applicable~~radially approachable brush (4 or 5) which is pivoted tangentially about at least a portion of the circumference of the metallic shaft strand (3) in the sense of a progressive peripheral removal of the external cladding (1.3; 2.3) from said strand, and

subsequently severing the shaft strand (3) in a transition region of the shaft ends (1.1; 1.2; 2.1).

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the brush (4 or 5) is approached in a manner that the radial length of its bristles (4.1 or 5.1) operationally extends maximally as far as the peripheral surface of the bared shaft ends (1.1; 1.2; 2.1).

6. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the shaft strand (3) is fitted in the region of the bared shaft-ends (1.1; 1.2; 2.1) with a geometrically interlocking torque transmitting connector of which an outer contour deviates from the circular form and in particular is square.

7. – 11. (Cancelled)

12. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 2, wherein at least one brush (4 or 5), in particular in the form of a motor-driven rotary brush, is approached radially.

13. – 14. (Cancelled)

15. (Withdrawn) A adjustment shaft made by a process of: starting with a metallic shaft strand (3) continuously fitted with an external cladding, removing said cladding in the zone (a; b) of the shaft ends (1.1; 1.2; 2.1) by at least one externally applicable

brush (4 or 5).

16. (Withdrawn) A adjustment shaft (1; 2) comprising a metallic shaft and a noise-abating, non-metallic external cladding (1.3; 2.3) situated between cladding-free shaft ends (1.1; 1.2; 2.1), made by the process of: starting with a metallic shaft strand (3) continuously fitted with said external cladding, removing said cladding the zone (a; b) of the shaft ends (1.1; 1.2; 2.1) by at least one externally applicable brush (4 or 5).